



# SENIOR CARE<sup>®</sup>

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## East Hartford

Aging Committee Public Hearing  
Tuesday, March 9, 2010

### Testimony in Support of HB 5277 AAC Funding for Adult Day Care Centers

Good Morning. I am Mary Ann Klember, Administrator of Senior Care of East Hartford. First of all, I would like to thank you for your continued support of Adult Day Health Centers and the time and interest you have taken in touring and supporting our centers.

In past hearings, center representatives have presented a detailed list of the numerous services adult health centers provide and the cost effectiveness of our services. Historically, centers have received a low reimbursement rate resulting in many closures. New centers are not opening and it is left to the remaining centers to try to service the elderly in areas without a facility.

In an effort not to be redundant, I thought I would speak on a recent participant referral I received from DSS.

The referral was for an 82 year old woman who had to be removed from her living environment with a niece because "the environment was volatile". She was relocated to a motel in a very "seedy" area of the State subject to significant drug traffic and prostitution. She spends her days in her motel room watching television; while her case worker tries to find suitable housing. She has a visiting nurse come in for medication management and a home health aide one hour in the morning and one hour in the evening for personal care and meals.

The cost of one nursing visit ranges from \$94--\$115 a visit. The cost of one hour home health aide is \$25--\$30 an hour. Her case worker referred her to attend our health center Monday thru Friday where she will receive nursing, personal care, nutrition, exercise, Socialization and stimulation from our therapeutic recreational programs. Most importantly, she will have a minimum of 6 hours of supervision and activity in a safe, caring environment. All for the modest price of \$63.55 a day versus two hours of home care for \$50-\$60 a day.

Currently, we transport clients within our region to and from the facility. However, our transportation costs have significantly increased due to higher gasoline prices, maintenance, and repairs. Now that we are servicing the Ellington/Tolland and Columbia/Marlborough regions which are not currently serviced by another facility, our costs are even further exacerbated. Our van fleet covers approximately 500 miles a day and uses approximately \$300 a day for gasoline. We could really use the support of this Legislation and hope that it will become law.

We are already cutting everything and everywhere we can without sacrificing the quality of care for our senior and disabled participants. Without your help, more and more frail elderly will be pushed into isolation and premature nursing facility placement.

Thank you for your help.